

Message Text

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APPROVED BY AF:DBBOLEN

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IO:JTEFFT (SUBS)

S/S: LREDDY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251483

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, MP, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM
OF MAURITIUS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME TO ARRANGE
A MEETING BETWEEN RAMGOOLAM, IN HIS CAPACITY AS OAU CHAIR-
MEN, AND THE SECRETARY. UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE RAMGOOLAM
CANNOT ARRIVE IN NEW YORK UNTIL AFTER SECRETARY HAS CON-
CLUDED HIS VISIT THERE, ONLY POSSIBILITY WE HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO COME UP WITH IS FOR SECRETARY TO RECEIVE RAMGOOLAM AT
THE DEPARTMENT. AN APPOINTMENT IS TENTATIVELY BLOCKED OUT
FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 3:30 PM.

2. WE ARE AWARE OF PROTOCOL IRREGULARITY OF ASKING
RAMGOOLAM TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR THIS MEETING, BUT
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BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANTIVE AND SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE TO

RAMGOOLAM MAY MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE.

3. ACCORDINGLY, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT YOU URGENTLY CONTACT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF GOM AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. PRESIDENT FORD HAD HOPED TO SEE PM AGAIN THIS YEAR,

ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF RAMGOOLAM'S OAU CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT DEMANDS OF ELECTION YEAR ACTIVITIES HAVE MADE SCHEDULING OF SUCH A MEETING IMPOSSIBLE.

B. SECRETARY IS VERY INTERESTED IN CONSULTING WITH RAMGOOLAM, IN HIS OAU CAPACITY, ON LATEST SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. UNFORTUNATELY, SECRETARY'S HEAVY SCHEDULE IN WASHINGTON MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO RETURN TO NEW YORK. IF THE PM IS WILLING, SECRETARY SUGGESTS THAT THEY MIGHT MEET AT THE DEPARTMENT ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 3:30 PM.

C. IF THE ABOVE PROPOSAL IS NOT CONVENIENT FOR THE PM, AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE OR ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES WOULD BE PLEASED TO GO TO NEW YORK TO MEET WITH PM AND CONTINUE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION BEGUN MAURITIUS SEPT. 26.

D. US WOULD APPRECIATE GOM'S REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO PERMIT APPROPRIATE PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE IN ADVANCE OF PM'S ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK.

4. CONCERNING PARA 3 (D) ABOVE, DEPARTMENT IS ASSUMING THAT RAMGOOLAM PLANS TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 12, SINCE HE IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS UNGA OCTOBER 14. IF HIS ARRIVAL IN NYC SHOULD SLIP TO OCTOBER 13, BUT HE DESIRES TO SEE SECRETARY, PERHAPS HE WOULD CONSIDER FLYING TO WASHINGTON FOR MEETING, PROCEEDING TO NYC THEREAFTER. ROBINSON

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